

Amendments to the Claims

Please AMEND claims 68 and 75 and ADD new claim 125, as follows. All of the claims currently pending in this application are reproduced below in accordance with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office practice.

1-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A method of making an elongated, composite, structural material, comprising the following steps:

(a) supplying a substantially continuous length of a porous web material selected from the group consisting of paper and cloth;

(b) ~~laying substantially continuous, parallel strands of reinforcing cords on at least one side of the web material, with the cords running in the lengthwise direction of the web material~~ applying a non-foaming thermosetting-resin-precursor mixture to the web material so as to impregnate the web material;

(c) ~~applying a thermosetting-resin-precursor mixture to each of the cords and the web material~~ laying reinforcing cords on at least one side of the web material to which the thermosetting-resin-precursor mixture has been applied;

(d) forming the web material into a sleeve-like configuration having the desired cross-sectional shape of the structural material, with ~~the~~ a cord-carrying side of the web material facing the interior of the configuration;

(e) depositing on the cord-carrying side of the web material a fluid matrix-resin-precursor composition that is compatible with the thermosetting-resin-precursor mixture applied to ~~each of the web material and the cords~~ in step (c) (b) and which, when reacted, yields a rigid matrix resin; and

(f) holding the sleeve-like configuration together under conditions that are conducive to the setting of (i) the matrix resin ~~in the core space~~ and (ii) the thermosetting resin applied to ~~each of the web material and the cords~~, and for a length of time sufficient for all of the resins to set, whereby the cords are bonded to the web material, the web material is stiffened, a core space within the sleeve-like configuration is substantially filled with the matrix resin, and the matrix resin is bonded to the sleeve-like configuration.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the matrix-resin-precursor composition comprises the reactants and blowing agent necessary to form a rigid foamed polyurethane as the matrix resin.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the web material is paper.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the thermosetting-resin-precursor mixture comprises the reactants necessary to form an epoxy resin.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the cords comprise synthetic fibers or filaments.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the cords comprise glass fibers or filaments.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the cords comprise polyester fibers or filaments.

75. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein the cords are substantially continuous and, in step (c), are laid parallel to each other in the lengthwise direction of the web material ~~laterally connected to each other in order to keep the cords in place during at least steps (b) and (c).~~

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the cords are laterally connected to each other by cross-cording.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the matrix-resin-precursor composition comprises pieces of at least one filler solid selected from the group consisting of lignocellulosic materials, cellulosic materials, vitreous materials, cementitious materials, carbonaceous materials, plastics, and rubbers.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the filler solid comprises tire rubber fragments.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the filler solid comprises a vitreous material.
80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the web material is kraft paper that has a basis weight of about 65 to 100 lbs.
81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the web material is kraft paper that has a basis weight of about 90 lbs.
82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the filler solid comprises tire rubber fragments, in an amount such that the rubber occupies about 20 to 90 volume percent of the core space following the completion of step (f).
83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the filler solid comprises tire rubber fragments, in an amount such that the rubber occupies about 45 to 75 volume percent of the core space following the completion of step (f).
84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the filler solid comprises tire rubber fragments, in an amount such that the rubber occupies about 55 to 65 volume percent of the core space following the completion of step (f).
- 85-87. (Cancelled)

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, further comprising a step of providing the exterior of the sleeve-like configuration with at least one coating selected from the group consisting of plant-growth repellants, fire or flame retardants, reflective particles, pigments, dyes, anti-corrosion chemicals, friction-increasing coatings, and wood veneers.

89-119. (Cancelled)

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the matrix-resin-precursor composition comprises a melamine-formaldehyde resin.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the matrix-resin-precursor composition comprises polystyrene.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the thermosetting-resin-precursor mixture comprises a urea-melamine resin.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the thermosetting-resin-precursor mixture comprises a phenolic resin.

124. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the filler solid comprises expandable polystyrene beads.

125. (New) A method of making an elongated, composite, structural material, comprising the following steps:

- (a) preparing a laminate comprised of (i) a substantially continuous length of a porous web material selected from the group consisting of paper and cloth, and (ii) reinforcing cords;
- (b) impregnating the laminate with a thermosetting-resin-precursor mixture;
- (c) scoring the laminate to form a plurality of creases running in the lengthwise direction of the laminate;
- (c) folding the laminate about at least two of the plurality of creases;
- (d) depositing on the laminate a fluid matrix-resin-precursor composition that is compatible with the thermosetting-resin-precursor mixture with which the laminate is impregnated in step (b) and which, when reacted, yields a rigid matrix resin;
- (e) further folding the laminate into a closed, sleeve-like configuration; and
- (f) holding the sleeve-like configuration together under conditions that are conducive to the setting of (i) the matrix resin and (ii) the thermosetting resin with which the laminate is impregnated, and for a length of time sufficient for all of the resins to set, whereby the cords are bonded to the web material, the web material is stiffened, a core space within the sleeve-like configuration is substantially filled with the matrix resin, and the matrix resin is bonded to the sleeve-like configuration.